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QUACKERY—ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS, WITH REFLECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

An Address read at the Quarterly Meeting of the Bristol (Mass.) District Medical Society, held in Taunton, on the 9th of March, 1853.

BY DAN KING, M.D.

PERHAPS no subject is less interesting to a promiscuous audience, than that of medicine. To unprofessional men its contemplation is neither entertaining nor pleasing. Its associations are of a disagreeable and repulsive character. Although the initiated view the subject in a different light, and always feel a deep interest in all that relates to the profession, yet to them almost everything connected with the subject has become a common every-day matter. It has no novelty, nothing to give it any new zest or interest. The deep-toned enthusiasm which heightens the importance and gives eclat to addresses on spirit-stirring occasions, never lends its aid to us to swell our themes or adorn our performances. We are not assembled on a 4th of July morning, surrounded with the ensigns of freedom, our bosoms burning with patriotic emotions, and our ears stunned with the loud acclamations which usher in that glorious anniversary. We are not about to welcome some proud hero, his brows already laden with glowing chaplets. We are not standing beside some towering monument, its base covering the dust of heroes, and its summit pointing the way their spirits have gone. None of these grand, exciting scenes are ours. Whoever writes or speaks upon medical subjects, must leave the regions of fancy and come down to the world of facts. Our business is with sober realities, naked truths and stubborn facts. It is not our province to divert and to please, but to exhibit truths, to expose errors and urge duties. We cannot expect, therefore, that any popular audience will be very much entertained by an address on an occasion like the present.

Those who read the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, may perhaps recollect a short editorial article which appeared in the twentieth number of the last volume, calling the attention of its readers to the subject of quackery, and particularly to that variety which is practised by such as are sometimes called come-outers—men who turn traitors, and then set up the apology of a prompting conscience. After some pertinent remarks, the writer goes on to say—"Presuming that others

have contemplated the erratic course of many a recusant brother, what course, in their opinion, can be devised to uphold the respectability of the medical profession, and preserve it from the contempt of well-directed minds?" Immediately after reading that article, I thought I would furnish the Journal with some remarks of my own upon the subject; but not having done so, I have since thrown together a few reflections and suggestions upon it, and they comprise the substance of the present discourse.

I am aware that this is a hackneyed subject; that it is more than a thrice-told tale; that it has so long and so often been made a subject of examination and inquiry, that it has lost all its novelty. But, nevertheless, it is a grave subject; its magnitude is by no means diminished, and the importance of the inquiry, "What can be done?" is every day increasing. Quackery is a demon which probably always did and always will exist, to perplex and annoy our profession and curse mankind. Empty as the air, fickle as the wind, and transitory as the phantoms of a vision, yet ever maintaining its power and accomplishing its purpose. The subject is odious enough in any view we may take of it; there is much to be blamed within and without our profession; but the usual practice of placing the whole to the account of the common people, is erroneous and unjust. The ancient Egyptians believed that every disease was the work of some aerial demon; and when the sick were suffering in consequence of their own violation of organic laws, when they were enduring the necessary result of their own acts, they sought for the cause in everything else but themselves. Some malignant star or evil geni were accused; and instead of correcting their own evil habits, as they should have done, they sought relief by endeavoring to propitiate the good and exorcise the bad spirits. They looked abroad for a cause which they might have found at home. They sought it in foreign objects, when it was within themselves; and he who supposes that the unprofessional public is justly chargeable with all the guilt of modern quackery, is little wiser than they. Reformations, like charities, should begin at home; and the people may with propriety say to us, "physician heal thyself." Yet in my present remarks I shall not confine myself to such faults as are found within our own precincts, but take the liberty to notice such as are uppermost in my mind, wherever they may belong. That tolerably well-educated physicians do sometimes become quacks and nostrum venders, is admitted; but I think it will generally be found that that class is made up of men of defective education, men of low capacities or eccentric minds, men who are better fitted for jockeys or showmen than for a learned profession, and always men whose avaricious propensities surpass all their moral sensibilities, having no ground of charity for their pretended promptings of conscience. It must be admitted, also, that there are hundreds of men in the profession, with degrees in their pockets, which they never merited; men whose mental organization, intellectual attainments, social training and moral principles, by no means qualify them for the station which they assume. They possess few or none of the necessary elements of success, and for their standing in the profession they rely almost entirely upon their parchment, which they are scarcely able to read.

Now the general character and standing of a profession is made up of the character and reputation of those who compose it. Every competent and honorable practitioner contributes towards its usefulness and respectability, and every incompetent or backsliding member helps to impair its usefulness and bring it into disrepute. Men of all ages may be found in the profession who do it no honor. They sit upon it like an incubus. Their tendency is not upward and onward, as it should be, but downward and retrograde. Like so many dead weights, they hang upon and depress it. It is so, though perhaps to a less extent, in the other professions. It is not every lawyer, admitted to the bar, who is qualified to shine as an advocate or become respected as a jurist. It is not every merchant or trader whose temper, tastes and acquirements qualify him for his business; and those who fail to succeed in any profession or occupation, usually disparage it. Young men are often very unfortunate in their choice of a business for life. When they come to be actually engaged in a profession or occupation into which accident seems to have thrown them, they often find that it is neither what they expected nor what they want. It does not suit their condition or inclinations, and they have no ambition to contribute to its general welfare, or make themselves eminent in it. They discharge its duties poorly, or abandon it altogether. And since perfection is nowhere else to be found, it were unreasonable to expect it among physicians. In all professions, the best have only fewer faults than some others, and I do not know that ours has more than its share of the common infirmities. For this state of things I cannot conceive of any effectual remedy, and we may, perhaps, as well sit down and conclude to take the world as it is, and cast a broad veil over all the countless frailties of humanity. But the direct outrages of quacks and nostrum makers cannot be viewed in the same light. When individuals abandon the legitimate practice of medicine and engage in the manufacture of quack medicines, it is because they are strongly tempted so to do by the almost certain prospect of becoming rich by such means. They see that the confidence of the public in our profession is weak and vacillating, that reason and prudence easily give way to whims and caprice, that public opinion is unsettled as the ocean, and that established truths are no more regarded than traces in the sand which every coming wave is liable to obliterate. They see whole communities gaping for humbugs, and adopt the oft-repeated adage, viz., "The world's a cheat, and he is a fool who does not have a hand in it." They see that men are so easily cheated in nothing else as that which pertains to their health and life. They see that nothing is too absurd or ridiculous to be believed; that mystery is more potent than reason; that the greatest falsehoods are often taken for the greatest truths, and that the public make little distinction between the most ignorant pretender and the most learned and experienced practitioner. Whoever takes his stand in the great arena of quackery soon finds that his success depends not upon the real value of his compounds, but upon his skill in fabricating and promulgating falsehood. He has no farther use for medical science or moral principle—strata-

gem and fraud supply their places. Calculating upon the easy credulity of the public he becomes confident of success, and his hopes seldom fail.

Whilst scores of honest and skilful men retire from the field pennyless and disheartened, the mercenary charlatan often finds his coffers filled to overflowing. He can purchase townships, build stately mansions, give princely entertainments, and take a station in the highest ranks and among the most wealthy classes of society, and all this takes place because the influence of our profession is insufficient to prevent it. In the whole history of medicine there probably never was a time when it had less authority, and certainly there never was a time when it deserved so much, for never before did it possess such a vast amount of knowledge. No other profession requires the degree of study or mental effort. No other requires so much intellectual, moral and social training, and no other carries with it so much incidental information. Yet this profession seems to have lost all its ancient dignity; it has far less authority now than it had in the days of Galen and Paracelsus. Medical men appear to have become inattentive to this subject, and forgotten the respect due to their calling. It is not so with the other professions. They are tenacious of all their rights, and scrupulously preserve all their prescriptive honors. The good of society requires that every profession and occupation should be duly respected in its own province; and the more important the calling, the more necessary it is that it should receive its due regard. Take away all respect from the clergy and desecrate the pulpit, and you destroy their usefulness; religious and moral order would come to an end; scepticism and infidelity, in all their wild confusion, would everywhere prevail, and the darkness of chaos brood over society. If we take a view of the circuit of some eminent practitioner who has long had the confidence of all around him, we shall find very little if any quackery lurking within his borders; his shadow terrifies and his frown banishes it; his authority is duly regarded; and all the puffs of newspapers and handbills, and the declarations of deceivers and their deluded votaries, are insufficient to impair public confidence in him. On the other hand, wherever educated physicians are not respected; where quackery meets with ready success; where the ignorant disciple of some new scheme is seen to ride slipshod over the community, there we have good reason to suspect that the present or former incumbents have been remiss, incompetent, or have committed some palpable errors, by which the profession has been disparaged.

Shakspeare tells us, "the evils that men do, live after them; the good is often interred with their bones." It is sometimes so with physicians. An unworthy practitioner may have created and left behind him prejudices or jealousies which it will require many years to remove. Scientific medicine and quackery, like truth and falsehood, are adverse powers, and whatever promotes the one embarrasses the other. Therefore whatever adds to the respectability, the influence and authority of our profession, tends to discourage and destroy quackery. For his own sake, for the sake of his profession, and for the sake of society, every physician should take and maintain a high standing in the community. It is not enough that he is appealed to with earnestness in an hour of

pain ; that he is respected in the sick-room and has authority in the nursery ; that he is the favorite of aunt Bathsheba, uncle Jonathan and a host of others. It is not enough that he is celebrated as an accoucheur, or eminent as a surgeon. He must be somebody in society, apart from all professional considerations. He should be known and respected everywhere, not merely on account of his profession, but for his general intelligence, the refinement of his manners, and his circumspect deportment. He should be seen and heard and known in the hall and drawing-room, as well as in the chamber of the sick. The physician, who, like some old nurse, is never wanted anywhere out of the sick-room ; who is only employed as a thing of convenience, and then set aside for further use ; who has no influence in every-day life ; whose character and conduct do not contribute towards the formation of public opinion, or public manners ; whose impress is not apparent upon the face of society—such an one has not half the influence that every good physician should have, and will be unable to do half the good that every physician should be able to do.

For a considerable time past, the public newspapers have contributed largely towards misleading and depraving the public mind. It is a lamentable fact that three quarters of all these papers derive their principal support from the proprietors of quack medicines. Page after page is filled with their fulsome statements, outraging common sense and doing violence to common decency, every word and syllable of which is false, and much of which the inmates of a brothel would blush to read by daylight. Almost every apothecary keeps a full assortment of these indispensable articles, and with many it is their principal business. Here the public are led to suppose they may always find a remedy for every disease, because such are advertised and highly recommended. Upon this state of things the high-minded physician looks with chagrin and mortification. The aspect is too formidable for his encounter, and he stands abashed. He subscribes for the newspapers that are constantly pouring falsehood and pollution into the public mind, and setting his profession at naught. He gives his patronage to the apothecary who is constantly dealing out panaceas, and who in the absence of the doctor has always something to recommend as better than any other known remedy. In consequence of this, the invalid, instead of seeking for the most competent medical adviser, pores over newspapers and pamphlets, to find the most extraordinary catholicon ; and when he has made up his mind to try some worthless nostrum, no sound medical advice to the contrary will weigh a straw in his mind.

Now we can do little directly to correct this state of things. Printers work for money, and will ever be ready to put in type whatever pays best, and the venders of nostrums are influenced by similar motives. Perhaps, on the whole, professional employment is not much abridged by all this ; for in general, such remedies, being improperly used, as they often are, do quite as much harm as good, and therefore we might have little cause to complain. Yet we have good reason to complain on another account. This course of proceeding tends to destroy public confidence in all medical means. It gives printed lies an authority

above verbal truth, and prepares the way for every new scheme in quackery. It may in time partially work its own cure. Newspaper statements are coming to be less and less regarded ; and the time may come when every reasonable man will conclude, as he may now without doing any great violence to facts, that every such newspaper is an entire falsehood. The most that we can do in this matter, is to organize and improve our profession, increase its worth, its influence and authority. By so doing we shall diminish the nostrum business and benefit the community.

One word upon the administration of medicine. This matter has, I think, been too little attended to in the practice of many physicians. Articles are often prescribed and administered in nauseous and repulsive forms, when they might be made much more agreeable, or something else much more pleasant might answer quite as well or better. Modern quackery has taken advantage of this, and now nearly every nostrum in the shops, and everything prescribed by quacks, in the shape of medicine, is either pleasant to the taste or entirely insipid ; so that the quack, rather than offer his patient a disagreeable bolus, gives him nothing but a placebo. And for this reason alone practitioners of that class are often employed, it being so easy to take their medicine. It is indeed easier to swallow a few grains of sugar of milk than a dose of wormwood, although the latter might sometimes be useful, but the former never. It is certainly a duty which every practitioner owes his patient, to make all his treatment as pleasant as possible ; and in making prescriptions, this should never be forgotten.

Another unhappy circumstance, which tends in no small degree to embarrass our profession, is the want of friendly intercourse and kindness of feeling among professional brethren. It is a lamentable fact that jealousies, envies, hatred and ill will are often secretly entertained where nothing of the kind should be allowed to exist a moment ; and if physicians reproach, backbite and dishonor one another, can they expect the public to respect them ? In the present crowded state of the profession, some appear to suppose, that in order to succeed themselves, they must ruin somebody else. This is a sad mistake ; for although an individual acting upon this idea may disturb the peace of others, and impair public confidence, yet the blow is almost certain to recoil upon its author with augmented force. No reputation surreptitiously acquired is likely to be of long duration ; and the world's experience may teach every prudent man that a persevering, upright line of conduct is the only sure road to permanent success ; that the way for an individual to rise is to build himself up by adding to his own stock of knowledge, and making himself more and more worthy of confidence and respect.

There are hundreds of men about the country, who pretend that they were once regular physicians, and practised in that way as long as their tender consciences would let them ; but having found out some new and better way, they have, out of a sense of duty, abandoned the *old* practice, as they call it, for something that is infinitely better. Now a large proportion of these pretenders are ignorant men, who have had no medical education, but being too lazy to follow their own proper occupa-

tion, have abandoned—not medicine, but their agricultural or mechanical implements, for what they erroneously imagine to be much easier, viz., the practice of quackery. But it must be acknowledged that among this nefarious class there are some who have been educated and admitted as regular members of the profession. If you learn the history of these men, you will generally find that they tried their hands awhile in the practice of their legitimate calling; but owing to their want of perseverance, or their own unfitness or incompetence, they were not successful, and therefore abandoned an honest and honorable course for one of hypocrisy and fraud. Of all quacks, such men are the most detestable. By the common consent of all nations, when an individual becomes a traitor and takes up arms against his country, he is considered an outlaw deserving nothing better than the gallows. And is the man who abjures a calling so big with responsibility, and for the sake of money undertakes a crusade against human life, less guilty? Although such men may and sometimes do enjoy a temporary prosperity—although they may glory in their own shame and bask in a brief summer's sun—yet the time will assuredly come when their sin will find them out, and *mene tekell* be written upon them.

[To be continued.]

M. RICORD'S LETTERS UPON SYPHILIS.

Addressed to the Editor of L'Union Medicale—Translated from the French by D. D. STADY, M.D., Boston, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

TWENTY-FIRST LETTER.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—How do the chancres heal, how do they cicatrize? Let me say a few words to you upon this subject, which has its importance.

The period of healing is announced by the disappearance of the areola of the ulcer. Its borders become disorged, sink, or they shelve towards the bottom, and the separation from the surrounding tissues ceases, if it has taken place. The margin becomes of a pale tint, of a greyish-pearl color, and finishes by taking on again the normal color of the neighboring tissues. The bottom becomes cleansed; the grey, diphtheritic, lardaceous layer is at first as if transpierced with granulations, which later fill it up everywhere, and give to the ulceration a granulated aspect, and a healthy, rosy tint. The pus then becomes less abundant, creamy—*laudable*, as we can say here with justice, for it ceases to have the power of inoculating. As the parts fill up, the epidermis spreads from the circumference to the centre, and cicatrization is completed as in every wound which has suppurated, or as after every other ulceration which has no longer any cause of being one.

The *cicatrix of chancres* may be more prominent than the neighboring parts; sometimes it is upon a level, and more frequently depressed, according to the thickness of the tissues attacked; it is indelible in a great number of cases, while in others, it disappears completely, as often happens after an indurated chancre, or when the chancre is seated upon a mucous membrane.

But, as those who have had much experience know, the period of reparation may have its irregularities. In the serpiginous chancre, an extremity often becomes cicatrized, while the other continues to increase; sometimes it is one side which heals, and the other ulcerates again; frequently, in fine, the healing takes place in one or several points at the centre, while the circumference augments its unhealthy circle without ceasing. Finally, you well know, that upon certain individuals, excepting when a well-directed treatment has intervened, or when we have not understood how to repress the granulations by cauterizations, or when foolish prejudices have prevented us from doing this, these granulations become, as they say, luxuriant, vegetating, and give to the ulceration certain aspects, which have gained for it the names of *granulated, fungous, vegetating chancres*. Veritable vegetations, varied in their form, may then be produced, of an accidental epigenic tissue; they have not, on this account, a syphilitic nature, as we shall see by-and-by.

At this period, as I have already told you, when the chancre has infected the economy, it may itself undergo a local transformation, and finish by presenting the characters of mucous tubercles, and thus justify the opinion of those who, for want of analysis, have not understood these changes, and who have admitted that these accidents may be either primitive or secondary, and that in all cases they were contagious; an opinion which I have already combated.

But here is a point of doctrine upon which I insist, and which I ought to recall to you; it is that the chancre which may increase at different periods, *never relapses when once cicatrized*. If a new inoculable chancre shows itself at a later period, after complete cicatrization, we may affirm that it is the result of a new contagion.

After all that I have just told you, it is very certain that, taking into account the morality of patients, so far as we can weigh and measure it, by knowing the conditions in which they have been placed, by recalling the seat of preference of chancres, their number most frequently limited; by knowing also how to appreciate well the different varieties and the period of progress and of the specific *statu quo*, the progress, the duration and the different aspects which they could present at the period of reparation and even after cicatrization, as also the influence more or less pronounced of the mercurial treatment, in certain cases we can arrive at an almost absolute rational diagnosis.

However, the physiognomy of the primary ulcer is ordinarily so expressive (excuse the word), at the specific period, that in seeing we recognize it. We must distrust this first impression; it may cause us to commit indiscretions that will cost us something to repair. You have allowed me a pathological anecdote; I make use of your permission, happy if I can distract you a little from the dryness of my preceding descriptions. One day, one of our very grave *savans* enters my office, and without any other preamble shows me a diseased organ, saying to me, what is that? I answer at once, it is a chancre. Well! sir, it was my wife who gave it to me. Then, sir, it is not a chancre. And why not, if you please? Because, I replied, what distinguishes simple ulcerations resembling chancres from the true chancres, is the source from

which we believe to have taken them. My patient was not duped by an argument, which would have sufficed for certain physicians whom you know, and contented himself with saying, with much dignity and resignation: cure me.

But the diagnosis, is it always as easy as is believed, as some of our classical authors profess? I appeal to M. Lagneau, who has in our day so worthily represented them. Remark rather, if, in spite of all the care which he takes with it, he succeeds in distinguishing the primary chancre from what he calls, with so many others, the secondary chancre. Throw a glance again upon the synoptical and comparative table which he has made of ulcers which might be confounded with those which are caused by the syphilitic virus, and tell me if this is the case, and especially if it enables you to establish this with certainty.

Mercury, that touch-stone so infallible in the eyes of the faithful, and which has been the foundation of the division of the *true* and the *false* syphilis in England, is a deceptive reagent. It often cures non-syphilitic accidents, while it aggravates those which are so, and which are sometimes cured without anything.

How many chancres there are which are overlooked by experienced practitioners! How many errors committed, especially in regard to the different varieties of the indurated chancre, the most dangerous of all! Sometimes we believe them simple excoriations, sometimes we can be deceived to a degree to consider them as true cancerous degeneracies. My colleague and friend, Dr. Vitry, of Versailles, ought to recollect a patient to whom a physician of Paris was called, not to judge of the nature of his complaint, but to amputate his penis. I recognized the existence of an indurated chancre, with considerable increase of the plastic exudation, and the pills of the iodide of mercury replaced the knife.

One of our learned professors of the Faculty of Paris, who is as cognizant with syphilis as with other diseases, in the diagnosis of which he excels, ought to remember the history of a great Russian Lord whom we saw together at the house of our honored and regretted master, M. Marjolin, and in whose case he would not recognize a primary accident, because there only remained the specific induration, and because this Lord could not account for nor explain to us, how he could have contracted this accident, which shortly afterwards, as I had predicted, gave the most convincing proofs of a constitutional affection.

If you will let me, I will relate to you another little story. The nephew of Cullerier one day sent to me a fashionable writer, to ask my advice respecting an ulceration which he had upon the corona glandis; an ulceration with an indurated base and which did not then present the characteristics of the borders, and of the base classically required in order to constitute a chancre. I did not the less recognize an ulceration with the specific characteristics of the induration which I have lately described, and with the ganglionic radiation which we shall have to study presently. Cullerier was not of my opinion, inasmuch as he had examined the two only women accused, and whom he had found healthy. The nephew did not admit the mediate contagion, nor spontaneous syphi-

lis, and as he had faith in what the patient said, he could not admit the existence of a primary ulcer. I, who often doubt, even with the most certain proof, and who admit all the rational ways of contagion, remained convinced that the patient had been deceived—that he was mistaken, or that he deceived us. In fact, six weeks had scarcely passed before constitutional symptoms well characterized—too well, for they were very difficult to cure—manifested themselves. But while Cullerier was still asking himself how and why the patient had the verole, I was called to the house of a distinguished lady. I arrived, knowing neither the end nor the motive for my visit. This great lady was mysteriously seated in her boudoir, and, in spite of the twilight that reigned in the place, I could perceive upon her face, evidences little deceptive of a secondary affection. Doctor, she says to me, what I have to say to you is very delicate. Wishing to cut short a painful confession, I said to her, I see what it is, Madam, and your face explains to me sufficiently why I have the honor of being in your presence. What do you mean? she asked, with astonishment. That you are sick, madam, and that doubtless you require my services. Not in the least. I have requested your visit in order that you should aid us in preserving M. X—— (the writer who had been sent to me by Cullerier), not only from his malady, but also from his dangerous intrigues. And here was this lady, who took upon herself to draw me a portrait, little flattered, of the two women whom Cullerier had examined, whom he had found healthy, and who were, according to her, the cause of all the evil. I had great trouble, as you may suppose, to make this lady understand that the source from whence our poor writer had taken his trouble was situated much nearer to me, and to obtain the confession that the pressing interest which she had for our patient had other motives than a pure Platonic affection.

Thus it is with all of them, my dear friend; and the moral of this anecdote is, that the men of the world never make to you full confessions; that in having relations with great ladies, or with others in whom they have confidence, their ideas are a thousand leagues from the truth; their suspicions do not rest upon the veritable source of their malady, and they search for it where it does not exist.

You see, then, how difficult the diagnosis of chancre often is; and how wrong we are to deny the existence of it, when the patients do not aid us in discovering the source from whence they have taken it.

It is, then, because I know all the difficulties of the diagnosis in a sufficiently large number of cases; it is because I have seen men the most skilful, commit frequent errors, that I have said, and do still say, in spite of the contrary opinions, that the only positive, unequivocal pathognomonic characteristic of chancre at the period of progress or of specific *statu quo*, is found in the *pus* which it secretes, and which can be inoculated; whence I conclude that *inoculation gives the most certain evidence of the specificity of the ulcer*.

I said in the work that I published in 1838, that if we ought to give mercury in all the cases where a primary virulent accident exists, we should be always assured of this virulence by practising in time artifi-

cial inoculation. But be assured, this operation, to which some persons might object, and which they have the right to consider as dangerous, when one does not know how to make use of it, is not necessary for practice, and I have never advised it as a general rule.

The prognosis and treatment of chancre are based upon other indications, than the virulence ; for it is the induration and its accessories, which inoculation is unfitted to make us distinguish, which foretels the future fate of the constitution, and requires the specific treatment. This is what I hope to be able to demonstrate.

Yours, RIGORD.

PROTECTION FROM SMALLPOX BY VACCINATION.

BY ZACHARY LEWIS, M.D., KING AND QUEEN CO., VA.

On the 25th of June, 1851, I was called at night to meet Dr. Robinson to see a little girl aged about 12 years of age, a daughter of Mr. E. W., deceased, who, it was said, had the measles. On entering the room, to my astonishment I found she was literally covered with the eruption of confluent smallpox.

The history of the case is this :—She had been carried to Baltimore some two or three weeks before, where she was exposed to variola infection. She returned home, however, and continued as well as usual until Wednesday, the 18th, when she was taken with a high fever, pain in the head and back, and all the symptoms, as was supposed by the family, of measles. About Saturday an eruption made its appearance on the face, arms and breast, when I considered it a genuine case of confluent smallpox. The family became greatly alarmed, as the children, several in number, together with a numerous family of negroes, had never been vaccinated. Mr. W., in his lifetime having had no confidence in the protection afforded against smallpox by the vaccine disease, never had any of his family vaccinated. We decided at once to vaccinate the whole family ; but as neither of us had matter at the time which could be relied on, it was not done till the next day.

A young lady of the family had been sleeping on the bed with the patient, and several small children were constantly in the room during the whole course of the eruptive fever (up to Wednesday night). I continued in attendance until Sunday morning, at which time my services were dispensed with.

The case terminated fatally on the next Thursday afternoon, when I was again called in to see the family who had been vaccinated. I found on examination the vaccine matter had taken most beautifully. The patients had no eruption, except the pustule on the arm, with the exception of the eldest son of Mr. W., who had a considerable number of pustules, but no more than I have seen in patients who had not been exposed to smallpox virus. He had no more fever than the rest of the children, and continued to walk about the house and yard during the whole time.

The above case is one of the many going to confirm the great and be-

neficient doctrine of Jenner, which, tending to avert one of the most deadly of human evils, deserves, like the doctrines of religion and liberty, the warm support and cordial acceptance of every enlightened citizen. Although the history of vaccination is a history of its uniform and ascendant progress over all obstacles, whether of ignorance, prejudice, or avarice, there have always been those who, unwilling or unable to survey the whole subject, which ought to carry conviction to every judgment, have preferred to rely on their own limited experience of a few doubtful exceptions, and reject the boon of Jenner, rather than yield assent to a mass of evidence such as has scarcely ever been accumulated in any other department of human investigation. The doubts, hesitancy and fears of such individuals ought not, and it is believed will not, prevent the extension and ultimate triumph of vaccination, when the variolous contagion, like the Jewish leprosy, shall cease to deform and destroy the race of man. The dogma of Willis, "Convenet enim homini omni soli et semel, variolis aut morbillis affici," has already ceased to be true or accepted, however true it might have been anteriorly to the researches of Jenner.

What corroboration, in fact, is necessary or possible where it is admitted, on the experience of half a century, that millions of lives have been preserved; that variola has from some countries been wholly exterminated, and, in most parts of the globe, disarmed of its dangers and deformity; that thousands of individuals, protected by its means, have been inoculated, and with impunity exposed to the concentrated contagion of smallpox—in fine, since the growing light of experience and philosophy teaches both reason and the senses that the doctrine of Jenner is incontrovertibly true? The proposition to be solved is not, whether any cause can so change the structure, irritability and sensibility of the living tissues as to incapacitate them from suffering a second impression from a similar cause, for there are no physiologists who will deny the affirmative to be true. Mankind wish to know whether vaccina can so change the structure or properties of the tissues as to render them unsusceptible of the impressions of variola. This is the true question in the public mind:—Shall we be safe from smallpox if we are vaccinated? The testimony of all Europe, Asia, Africa, and the experience of the United States, will answer, yes. Who doubts that measles, once suffered, incapacitates that individual, in all future time, from undergoing the same pathological state? And yet what practitioner, of a few years' standing, has not witnessed a second attack of rubeola? Is not the same thing true as regards parotitis, varicella, scarlatina, &c.? Confessedly, these diseases have been known to attack a second, and even a third time in numerous instances, ever since they became the subjects of medical history; and this, too, without invalidating the truth of, or preventing the public reliance on, the general rule, that an attack is only sustained once by each individual. Jenner's immortality is due to this, that he first invented, and successfully practised, the art of substituting a mild and safe animal poison to effect that modification of the constitution which, previously, had only been produced by a harsh and often mortal one.—*Stethoscope and Virginia Medical Gazette.*

PERFORATION OF THE STOMACH.

BY EDW. GOVEIT, ESQ., M.R.C.S.E.

THE subject of this case was a young Irishwoman, 24 years of age, hitherto healthy, of active habits, and following the situation of a domestic servant in a private family. On the evening of Sunday, the 16th ultimo, she left her employer's house apparently in good health, having made no complaint to any one previous to her departure: but on returning home at 10 o'clock the same night, in a cab, she complained of extreme pain in the epigastric region, stating, at the same time, that she had been very sick. There was no peculiarity about the pulse, and the tongue was ordinarily clean. In the absence of obvious cause or knowledge of previous disease, I concluded that she must have eaten some indigestible substance, which had produced the symptoms above related, and accordingly prescribed at once a stimulant. Being a visiter, on the point of leaving the house for my own residence as the deceased entered, I hastily gave directions that further assistance should be obtained if she grew worse. On the following evening (Monday) I heard that she had died at about half past 1 o'clock, P.M., of that day, having previously had the professional assistance of a gentleman in the neighborhood, who found her in a state of extreme collapse, and having much the appearance of a patient in the last stage of cholera, but without the diarrhœa or cramps. Stimulants, hot-water bottles, and mustard poultices, were ordered; but she died in about twenty minutes after his arrival, remaining sensible to the latest moment; the entire duration of her sufferings from first to last being about eighteen hours.

At a post-mortem examination by the surgeon in attendance and myself, we found, on opening the abdomen, that the entire peritoneal covering of the cavity and its contents was in the highest state of inflammation; large quantities of pus and lymph between the convolutions of the intestines; the great and lesser omentum being in a shrivelled and highly-engorged and partially-agglutinated condition: in short, such was the fearful state of the abdominal viscera, that we were entirely puzzled how to account for such an enormous amount of mischief arising in so short a period, until, upon examining the stomach, the cause at once appeared, viz., a perforation of that organ, of the size of a sixpenny-piece, with smooth white edges, somewhat hardened, and nearly as even as though it had been cut out with a wadding punch. The situation was at the superior and anterior wall, and about two inches and a half from the pylorus; the villous coat was obliterated in the neighborhood of the opening, and the vessels around it red and greatly distended; the other parts of the lining membrane were healthy.

It appears to me that there are several points of interest in the case:

1st. The remarkably sudden appearance of the symptoms without previous derangement.

2d. The preservation of the mental powers to the last moment; and

3d. The peculiar character of the perforation itself.

I am informed that several similar cases have occurred in the same district, and that it has been difficult to trace the disease to any evident exciting cause.—*London Lancet.*

WHAT IT IS TO BE BILIOUS.

WHEN an idea gets abroad and becomes popular, and a saying to express it becomes familiar in our mouths, it takes a long time to get either of them out.

The word *bilious* is probably used to express a greater variety of conditions, or ailments, than any other in the vocabulary of medicine, and strange as it may seem, it is very seldom used in its true sense, or to explain the condition which it implies.

To be bilious is to have a redundancy of bile—an active accumulation of this secretion from the blood by the liver, and from thence to pass into the gall-bladder; but the term is commonly used to express the contrary condition, one in which the liver is torpid in its action, and consequently the bile remains in the blood and is carried through the system, showing itself in the transparent tissues, as in the white part of the eyes, and even the skin.

In this case it is very seldom a disease, but a symptom merely of disordered function, as in fever, however slight, when the secretions are diminished, and that of the liver accordingly. The people are so frequently "bilious," that patent-medicine venders make capital of it, and advertise nearly all their nostrums for "bilious complaints," and thus they hit almost every one's case. Popular notices have been industriously propagated upon this subject by quacks, and thus they have furnished the (supposed) disease, and the remedy—like shrewd tradesmen they create a demand to promote sales.

No opinion will so readily satisfy most patients as to tell them they are "bilious"; this they think they understand, and what is more, in nine cases in ten, you will agree with them "precisely," than which nothing is more satisfactory. We are sorry to acknowledge that many physicians who do not like to talk, or have learned that it is not safe to do so, often take this method to get rid of troublesome customers. Such men are usually considered amiable and smart—amiable because they say yes to everything, and smart because they know as much as their patients. In out-western phraseology, the term bilious has quite a different signification—one which is by no means complimentary—partaking in a measure of the ancients' notions, and associated with a sour disposition and bad temper. This unhappy state of the moral man, our worthy ancestors, at an early day, ascribed to "black bile," and we are not sure but that they are entitled to the credit of being nearest right, for when the liver is torpid, the bile is darker in color and irritating to the mucous surfaces over which it passes, in proportion as it is in such cases less in quantity; and an irritable temper is no doubt often associated with this condition; and that a little super-carbonate of soda or mild aromatic will make a man amiable oftentimes, is a fact well known among physicians. The same is also true of the use of mild cathartics; hence cross children are often treated with a dose of castor oil, which removes the exciting cause.

If quacks only knew enough, it would be easy to get fortunes by making a medicine upon this principle for bad tempers, as buyers would be found in plenty, of both sexes, to provide for the usual consequences

of washing-day, and cold dinners; and thus two customers would be secured in every family where the machinery of the kitchen does not move regularly. Let our readers remember that to be bilious is to be bad tempered, and this popular ailment will soon be expunged from the calendar.—*The (New York) Esculapian.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON. APRIL 13. 1853.

Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity.—Messrs. Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, have recently produced the third edition of this work, by I. Ray, M.D., with additions. Though the first was thought nearly faultless, the author's subsequent experience and reflection must have considerably improved what came before the public in 1838. It would be a needless waste of time to describe the peculiar excellencies of this important treatise. Lawyers and physicians generally are quite familiar with its merits. If there are any members of either of these professions who are not so, an opportunity is now afforded of making up for lost time. In its present aspect, Dr. Ray's book is a large octavo of 520 pages, in a clear, distinct type and on good paper. No point seems to have been neglected, of the least importance, that might aid in understanding the delicate and almost infinite shades of lunacy. Idiocy, imbecility, pathological symptoms of mania, intellectual and moral mania, legal consequences of mania, dementia, febrile delirium, duration of madness, lucid intervals, simulated insanity, concealed epilepsy, suicide, somnambulism, effects of insanity on evidence, drunkenness, legal consequences, interdiction and isolation, and the duties of medical witnesses, are the heads of some of the numerous subjects ably discoursed upon in the work. The publishers deserve a generous patronage.

What is Life?—This question was asked at the opening of an address to the candidates for degrees, at a late examination in the Medical Institution of Yale College, and answered by the learned gentleman by whom it was propounded—Benjamin Welch, M.D., one of the board of managers. So many have traversed the same path, and explained what life is, each in his own way, which very rarely corresponds with the definitions of others, that it is a difficult point to determine who is right or who is wrong. In the meanwhile, the amount of physiological facts which each one collects in the effort to establish a theory, is adding to the stock of knowledge which has been accumulating for ages; and if no one has yet satisfactorily defined what life is, the world is the wiser for their researches. Dr. Welch lays down one proposition, that meets our individual approval, because it is plain common sense. It is this—"The first and essential law of our existence, is that of progress." There is no repose for nature, or in nature, and Dr. Welch takes a departure from that text, on which he reasons like a deep philosopher. He touches very delicately upon that old worn-out topic of discussion, the connection of mind and matter, and, much to his credit, owns up, as the brokers say, by plainly declaring that the union

is entirely beyond our comprehension, instead of wasting strength in the attempt to show, as many have, what never can be shown. After passing over this mysterious connection, Dr. Welch discourses admirably on the moral obligations of physicians, and their high destiny if they fulfil the mission upon which they set out in life.

Clinical Phrase Book.—Montgomery Johns, M.D., became satisfied, from experience, that it was quite convenient, if not absolutely necessary, to have a sufficient acquaintance with the German language to interrogate the patients whom physicians are often called upon to treat. The immense emigration to this country has filled our cities and large towns with foreigners, whose vernacular in many cases is German, and the physician who can speak their language makes himself very acceptable to these strangers, and has a manifest advantage over those who are unable to converse with them. Without particularly descanting upon the value of the accomplishment of understanding the literature of Germany, whoever examines Dr. John's Phrase Book will perceive how easy it is to master a series of questions that may serve in other meridians besides a sick room. It is a small duodecimo, containing a dictionary of English and German; elements of grammar, phrases, measures, weights, materia medica, and some of almost every thing necessary to learn in order to comprehend the meaning of a German who knows nothing of English. It is a useful and acceptable publication. Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston, Philadelphia, have done justice to the typography.

Lectures on Life Insurance.—Moses L. Knapp, M.D., late of Iowa, is the author of a thick, respectable-looking pamphlet, of 242 pages, devoted to what he pleases to call the science of life insurance. A friend of ours, who has given it a reading, comes to the conclusion, with ourselves, that it is essentially the advertisement of a few insurance offices. Such has been the character of the efforts in New England, to induce people to take out life policies, that many who were inclined to view these institutions favorably, have been disgusted, if not alarmed in regard to the security of offices whose agents were running every where over the country. In this production of Dr. Knapp, there is not a single new idea, or an old one presented in a novel form. Facts and arguments which have become stale from constant repetition, are reproduced, accompanied by statistical memoranda and tabular proofs. If Dr. Knapp had come out boldly and fearlessly, declaring, at the outset, just what every one will believe who reads his lectures, that he has been well paid for this service by interested parties, quite as much of a sensation would have been made, as by his ostensible attempt to carry the point under the cloak of disinterested scientific investigation. Having been an advocate for life insurance, in offices of a high character, whose responsibility and resources are properly guarded by the Legislature, we shall offer nothing in objection to a fair and honorable course of business enterprise in this line; but an opinion is extensively entertained that two thirds, at least, of all the life offices are unsound, and that their incomes go for the support of a few presidents, secretaries and directors, instead of securing from want the families or friends of deceased individuals. We fully agree with Dr. Knapp when he says, "The companies that are taking advantage of the public ignorance and practising deception, resorting to usages that are utterly condemned and shown in this

work to be fallacious, are the occasion of the deepest solicitude and regrets on the part of all persons who have examined the subject with that careful attention it merits." Now if the publication of this book itself is not of the same nature as some of the doings which he reprobates, the object of its publication is wholly mistaken.

Rush Medical College.—N. S. Davis, M.D., who ably sustains the chair of pathology and practice, at Rush Medical College, delivered a valedictory to the graduating class on the 16th of February, which has since been published by the class. He is a good writer, earnest, sincere, and always to the point. In this instance the address is a fine specimen of what a farewell discourse should be. It is not so long as to weary the reader, nor could it have been tedious to those who listened to it. Short sermons are generally popular, and orations are never prized when they weary an audience. Just enough in this instance was said by Dr. Davis, and consequently the fundamental truths he wished to impress on the minds of the class, will be likely to remain.

Advertising by Physicians.—Throughout New England, and to some extent in the other States, a steady and uninterrupted effort has long been made by organized medical associations, to prevent the members from advertising themselves in a way which may be considered objectionable or injurious to the honor and dignity of a liberal profession. Stringent as the regulations for this purpose are, occasionally some one ventures to announce himself to the public. This is accomplished in two modes—first, by withdrawing from his associates altogether; or, second, by stating, through an appropriate medium, that he is devoted exclusively to a specialty. While those who pursue all other branches of commendable industry are allowed, by common consent, to advertise, practitioners of medicine and surgery must be introduced to the people through the verbal representations of individuals, who of course propagate the intelligence of the skill, attainments and other qualifications of a medical gentleman, as circumstances, gossip, or the marvellousness of a neighborhood may dictate. One of the strong and often repeated complaints made against this prohibition, is that the officers of all medical associations have their names heralded abroad in official notices, records, and various publications of the societies over which they preside, which secures to them the advantages of an advertisement. They are extensively known abroad as the prominent members of the association to which they belong. This gives them publicity and patronage, while the rank and file, those who actually sustain the burden of maintaining the institution which thus gives prominence and distinction to one or two, are kept out of sight. Members of medical societies have been known to withdraw their connection on this account. They could accomplish nothing, as they believed, while they remained; and as by advertising their remedies or their experience, they could have business, they preferred the frowns of their former associates, to starvation. When their fortunes were made, no serious objections were ever known, it is said, to prevent their returning to the fold, on abandoning the way that has conducted them to wealth. This is the kind of reasoning that the disaffected resort to; and the success that attends many who pursue a course opposed to the law, has a tendency to make members restive under the prohibi-

tion, and to doubt whether its stringency, in forbidding almost every species of professional advertising, does not operate, on the whole, to the injury rather than the benefit of the profession. Again, it is said, that those practising a particular branch of medicine or surgery are seldom troubled by the sentinels of professional propriety, when their notices appear in the newspapers; nor is it suggested that it borders on quackery, or is an ingenious scheme for evading the no-advertising doctrine, to send professional circulars through the post-office. As this is an important subject, it might be well to have the views of the profession expressed more fully upon it than it has yet been.

Institution for Idiots.—At Barre, Mass., fine accommodations are provided for the moral and physical training of imbecile children. The locality, the conveniences, and, above all, the qualifications of those who have the daily charge of the unfortunate inmates, are eminently fitted for the purposes designed. The Barre institution is the first established in America. In some respects it is superior to Dr. Guggenbuhl's school at Interlacken. The town in which it is situated is delightful, the village particularly inviting, the society cultivated, and the air, the purity of the water, the scenery, and the immediate appointments of the buildings, all justify us in recommending Dr. Brown's establishment to the notice of parents. A report now before us, the first we remember to have seen, besides furnishing necessary information respecting the general economy of the establishment, contains comments on cases, in which individuals have risen from an extremely low mental condition, to be mindful of the proprieties of life. A regular system of instruction is unremittingly pursued, that rarely fails to accomplish happy results in developing some of the dormant faculties, while the personal condition of even very hopeless cases is bettered by perseverance. A happier home could not be found for eccentric or idiotic children. One continuous effort is operating, from the hour they enter, to implant just ideas and good habits, and promote their health and happiness. As a whole, the children constitute a large social family. Those desirous of knowing the particulars as to prices, the process of gaining admission, &c., can ascertain by addressing Geo. Brown, M.D., Barre, Mass.

Suffolk District Medical Society.—At the annual meeting of this society, held on Wednesday, 6th inst., the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—Dr. John Homans, *President*; Dr. Samuel Parkman, *Vice President*; Dr. John B. Alley, *Secretary*; Drs. Ephraim Buck and Silas Durkee, *Supervisors*; Dr. Wm. E. Coale, *Librarian*; Dr. N. B. Shurtleff, *Treasurer*.

The Counsellors and Censors of the State Society for Suffolk District, with one or two exceptions, were re-elected. A committee was appointed to nominate a list of delegates to the next annual meeting of the American Medical Association in New York, and report at the monthly meeting of the Society on Saturday, 30th inst.

Excision of the Testes.—A correspondent sends us the following, which he thinks might with propriety be inserted in the Journal as an *erratum*. The circumstances of the case referred to were novel, and it is not perhaps

strange that there should be a difference of opinion respecting the expediency of the operation which was performed. He says—

In the article on "Excision of the Testes," in the *Journal* for March 30, pp. 180-182, for "she" and "her," read "he and his." To take a child having testes, for a young Miss, is, to say the least, a mistake, which, together with the operation itself, ought to be numbered among the "corrigenda."

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. C. Graham, of Kentucky, is reputed the greatest rifle shooter in the world.—Smallpox has appeared in the vicinity of South Hero, Vt.—Four hundred and thirty-one students attended the lectures of the University of Pennsylvania, the past season.—Dr. Warren, of Boston, and Dr. Mott, of New York, have been elected members of the French Academy of Medicine.—In one of Lindsay & Blakiston's small sheet catalogues, the prices of medical books, published by them, are given in the margin—an improvement generally demanded by physicians in the interior.—Dr. Brown's case of extensive disease of the cervical vertebrae, with clinical observations on other forms of caries of the spine, has appeared in a beautifully printed pamphlet.—Dr. Hereford, of Petersburg, Va., is represented, in the *Intelligencer* of that city, as saying that the general bad success of physicians in the management of scarlatina, is in consequence of giving too much physic.—The Medical Society of Virginia are about memorializing the Legislature for a law of registration.—A physician states that cod-liver oil may be administered without the least disgust to a patient, by chewing and swallowing a small quantity of the roe of a smoked herring both before and after taking the spoonful of oil. A piece of sardine will answer, if herring is not palatable. The disguise is perfectly effectual.—The proceedings of the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New York, in 1852-3, have been published in a pamphlet.—The students of the Rush Medical College, Chicago, have presented one of the faculty, Dr. Davis, with a valuable microscope.—Smallpox has appeared at Stanwix, N. Y.—Female colleges were denounced at a meeting of divines and others, at Pittsfield, Mass., the other day. They object to these modern institutions for turning women into men.—Additional cases are reported in the late *Southern Medical Journals*, of the beneficial effects of the *veratrum viride* in the treatment of typhoid fever, typhoid pneumonia, chronic rheumatism, &c.—Dr. Nathan Allen, of Lowell, is said to be preparing an article on the abuse of opiates in Great Britain and the United States, and will thankfully receive any statements of facts from physicians and others bearing upon this subject.

MARRIED.—At Columbus, Ohio, Norman Gay, M.D., to Mrs. L. E. Neiswanger.

DIED.—Dr. Alexander Duncan, formerly a member of Congress from Cincinnati, killed by falling from a wagon.—At Curaçon, W. I., James H. Adams, M.D., of yellow fever, late of New York, 31.—In New York, Dr. James Campbell, 57.—In Philadelphia, Prof. Wm. E. Horner, of the University, 60.

Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, April 9th, 75. Males, 38—females, 37. Accident, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 1—disease of the brain, 2—bronchitis, 2—consumption, 16—convulsions, 2—croup, 3—cancer, 1—dropsy, 2—dropsy in the head, 5—infantile diseases, 9—puerperal, 4—erysipelas, 1—typhoid fever, 2—scarlet fever, 4—hooping cough, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 8—disease of the liver, 1—marasmus, 2—old age, 1—poison, 1—rheumatism, 1—teething, 3.

Under 5 years, 40—between 5 and 20 years, 5—between 20 and 40 years, 17—between 40 and 60 years, 8—over 60 years, 5. Born in the United States, 54—Ireland, 18—England, 1—British American Provinces, 2. The above includes 6 deaths in the city institutions.

Treatment of Spontaneous Aneurism by Rest and Absolute Diet.—Professor Bush, of Lexington, has communicated to me the particulars of a case of spontaneous aneurism of the abdominal aorta, in which marked relief of the symptoms seems to have followed the observance of a most rigid diet. The patient, Mrs. Anderson, a mid-wife, aged sixty, resides in Madison county, Kentucky, and has led a very exposed and laborious life for many years. When Dr. Bush first saw her, about three months ago, the tumor, situated just below the stomach, was about the size of a pullet's egg, and pulsated most violently, emitting all the usual aneurismal sounds. The heart was involved in the trouble, laboring, and irregular in its actions. Believing that the case would be fatal, Dr. Bush merely advised quietude and absolute diet, barely enough of the lightest and least stimulating articles to support life. For a short time she grew worse, and her physician, Dr. Evans, informed Dr. Bush that a post-mortem examination could be obtained when she died. Not long afterwards he learned that, under a rigid adherence to the treatment, the woman was rapidly improving, in fact, getting well, with a decided subsidence of all the local symptoms. "This," adds Dr. Bush, "is the whole of my experience in spontaneous aneurism, excepting one or two cases which I have seen in the hands of Dr. Dudley, treated in the same manner, but not of Kentucky."

The starving plan of treatment, first recommended by Valsalva, and so happily employed by Dr. Bush in the above instance, is worthy of the serious consideration of the surgeon in all cases of spontaneous aneurism, inaccessible to the ligature. When properly carried out, it may not only retard the fatal progress of the disease, but occasionally even effect a cure, especially in the milder and more recent forms of the affection. Valsalva's plan, as is well known, was to subject his patients to the most perfect rest in the horizontal posture, and to diminish the quantity of food gradually, till only half a pint of soup was allowed in the morning, and a quarter of a pint in the evening, with a very small quantity of water, medicated with osteocolla, or mucilage of quinces.* This treatment was aided, particularly in robust subjects, by the repeated abstraction of blood. Professor Dudley asserts that he has cured some cases simply by restricted diet, without the use of the lancet; and a recent foreign journal mentions several instances of a similar kind relieved by Dr. Bellingham, of Dublin.—*Dr. Gross's Surgical Report to Kentucky State Medical Society.*

Dr. Bennet Dowler.—Our learned friend and fellow-citizen, Dr. Bennet Dowler, whose able pen and successful research into national and antiquarian history have contributed, at times, so much interest to the columns of this journal, and whose pamphlets have obtained such general and deserved fame, has received a letter from Mr. Charles O. Rafn, secretary of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquarians, at Copenhagen, of which the king of Denmark is president, informing the doctor of their purpose to elect him a fellow of that renowned society, and commending, in the highest terms, his successful prosecution of his enlightened inquiries into science and history.—*N. O. Delta.*

Dr. Dowler's friends at the north will rejoice to hear of the merited honor conferred upon him.

* Cooper's Surgical Dictionary, art. aneurism.